

national park bills to pass both houses of the United States Congress without a single dissenting vote. You played a key role in guaranteeing that the aspirations and well being of Samoan villages were paramount in the enabling legislation. Unique land acquisition techniques, revolving around long term leases were used under your direction. Village chiefs were guaranteed important roles in formulating park policy. The Samoan language and culture are to be highlighted in all park activities. As a result of your foresight, American Samoa will have a National Park that will preserve both Samoan wildlife and Samoan culture.

Many other examples of your conservation leadership could be cited. The Territorial Division of Wildlife and Marine Resources under your leadership has made important progress in evaluating and protecting the wildlife of American Samoa. Coastal Zone Management has flourished under your leadership. But perhaps most important has been your quiet personal example. You quietly led an effort to re-introduce the rare Samoan *toloa* or duck to your home island of Aunu'u. The crack of dawn has frequently found you on your hands and knees weeding the garden plot in front of the territorial offices. Many have seen you picking up rubbish and doing your own part as a private citizen to beautify the exquisite islands of American Samoa.

Because of your stellar service, both public and private to conservation, and because of the tremendous example of dedication and courage that you have set for your own people—the Polynesian Islanders—and for indigenous peoples throughout the world, the Seacology Foundation is pleased to bestow upon you the most distinguished award for indigenous conservation in the world by naming you Indigenous Conservationist of the Year 1995. We offer you our sincere appreciation for your tremendous devotion to protecting this planet.

Warmest personal regards,

NAFANUA PAUL ALAN COX, Ph.D.,
Chairman of the Board.

TRIBUTE TO KWEISI MFUME

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with mixed feelings of joy and sadness as we honor our good friend and colleague KWEISI MFUME. I am saddened to lose our esteemed colleague as a relentless advocate in Congress for the poor and disadvantaged, yet I am so pleased and proud that a man of such leadership, courage, dignity, and vision will now guide the NAACP to marvelous new heights.

Congressman MFUME has spent most of the last 10 years representing an area I know very well—the city in which my father, Thomas D'Alesandro, once served as mayor and as Member of Congress. KWEISI and I were both born and raised in Baltimore and had the good fortune to learn at the feet of some of the Nation's finest Democrats. While I moved to San Francisco, Congressman MFUME remained to represent the interests of those living in Maryland's Seventh Congressional District, which includes some of Baltimore's poorest neighborhoods.

KWEISI MFUME is the best possible role model for the youth he has worked to assist because he has experienced the challenges of life's adversity and knows that it is possible to triumph. After surviving difficulties in his childhood, he adopted not only a new name but a new way of life, completing his education, achieving popularity for his outspoken views as a radio talk show host, then winning a seat on the Baltimore City Council to promote the causes of the poor and disadvantaged living in distressed communities. In 1986, he was elected to Congress to continue his good work on Baltimore's behalf.

The limited time we have on the floor today is not nearly enough to list this member's many accomplishments and successes. We all know that Congressman MFUME has been a tireless advocate and a national leader for minority business development and civil rights legislation. His voice is always clearly and eloquently heard in defense of the rights and needs of children, people of color, the poor, the elderly, and the disabled—people who do not often have access to the halls of power.

During his impressive term as the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, KWEISI's style was to build coalitions, not to tear them down. He was instrumental in shaping the caucus into the formidable force that it is.

At the announcement of his selection as president and CEO of the NAACP, A. Leon Higginbotham said that Congressman MFUME "combined the brilliance of W.E.B. Dubois, the eloquence of Martin Luther King, the toughness of Thurgood Marshall, and the caring of Harriet Tubman." This great and natural leader could receive no more fitting tribute.

The name Kweisi means conquering son of kings. He has conquered everything he has sought to achieve in this Congress. Now he is moving on, not to conquer, but to bring together the people of our Nation and to continue to fight for the causes in which he believes. I join with his many, many friends, family, and colleagues in this body in bidding him farewell and wishing our friend good luck and great success in his new and very important endeavor. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity as president of the NAACP.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF BET

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert L. Johnson, the president and CEO of BET Holdings, the only publicly traded media company that primarily targets African-Americans. At the heart of BET Holdings is Black Entertainment Television, which operates the Nation's first and only advertiser-supported, basic cable television programming service that serves as both a cultural center and an information source for BET's target audience.

Some of us know Bob from his days here on Capitol Hill, where he served as press secretary to our distinguished colleague, Walter Fauntroy, the delegate from the District of Co-

lumbia. Others may have become acquainted with Bob during his tenure as vice president for government relations for the National Cable Television Association [NCTA]. In any event, Bob's current work with BET has allowed many of us in the African-American community to become familiar with him and the tremendous services he provides to African-Americans throughout the Nation.

Bob began BET with \$15,000 of his own money and \$500,000 from the cable industry's biggest company. Tele-Communications, Inc. In 1991, Bob made history when he took BET's parent company, BET Holdings, Inc., public. BET Holdings became the first company controlled by an African-American to be traded on the New York City Stock Exchange.

Today BET is available in more than 39 million homes, 24 hours a day, from Los Angeles to New York to Baltimore to smaller markets, such as Rapid City, SD. BET's current programming consists of a mix of black music videos, black collegiate sports, news, and original programming, such as late night talk shows public affairs series, one-act plays, and teen magazine shows.

Most recently, Bob Johnson and BET have teamed up with the computer company Microsoft in a venture aimed at making on-line services more accessible and more desirable to African-Americans. Specifically, BET and Microsoft will develop a new company which will produce interactive information for and about African-Americans. While most of the material will be made available on the Microsoft Network, the new company also hopes to produce information for the internet and for CD-ROM's. The goal is to create, Bob says, "an independent and interactive voice for African Americans."

As exciting and invigorating as this new venture may be, many of us would have expected no less from Bob. He saw an area in which African-Americans were under represented and he sought to fill the void: African-Americans use home computing technology at a far lower rate than white American households. According to a 1994 survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, 28.6 percent of white households had computers, compared with 11.1 percent of black households. By trying to get more blacks interested in and comfortable with computers and the Internet, Bob is attempting to ensure that African-Americans are not left out of the information revolution.

A review of the many awards, Bob has received throughout his distinguished career is a testimony to his drive and his dedication. In 1995 he received the Cablevision Magazine 20/20 Vision Award; in 1993 the Turner Broadcasting Trumpet Award; in 1992 Bob won the Executive Leadership Council Award; in 1985 the D.C. Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award; in 1984 the Capital Press Club's Pioneer Award; and in 1982 he won both the NAACP's Image Award as well as the NCTC's President's award.

Bob Johnson exemplifies all that is possible in America; he has used his skills and his know-how to become a successful businessman. He also represents all that is good about this country, as he has consistently chosen to use his talents and his resources to give something back to his community and to help others.